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Legislators and Airmen to receive National Guard awards

CHEYENNE – Wyoming State Rep. Dave Edwards is one of five individuals being awarded Saturday night at Little America Hotel and Resort during the annual Wyoming National Guard Governor's Reception.

Maj. Gen. Ed Wright, Wyoming's adjutant general, will present Edwards the National Guard Association of the United States Charles Dick Medal of Merit for his dedication and persistence to what is necessary and right for Wyoming's citizen Soldiers.

Edwards has created a legacy that will have far reaching benefits and maintained a current perspective on the challenges facing the Wyoming National Guard and their families.

Wyoming State Senators John Barrasso and Jim Anderson are also being awarded. They will be presented the Wyoming National Guard Association Medal of Excellence.

"During their tenure, the Wyoming National Guard has been the recipient of beneficial legislation supporting the Wyoming Military Assistance Trust Fund which assists families of qualified Wyoming military members in times of need. Future generations of all military families in Wyoming will be the benefactors of the hard work and dedication of these senators," said Wright.

Tech. Sgt. Michael Coughenour, of the Wyoming Air National Guard's 153rd Recruiting and Retention and Airman First Class Amanda Farrand, of the Wyoming Air National Guard's 187th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, will be awarded the Heroes

Among Us Award for heroic actions performed in a non-duty status outside of normal military duties.

Coughenour is being recognized for his selfless response to render first aid to an Airman injured at the Shoppette on F.E. Warren Air Force Base on July 4. According to the nomination, Coughenour heard an explosion and saw an Airman staggering and bleeding profusely from the forehead. He immediately started first aid and continued to put pressure on the wound. Without the quick thinking and selfless dedication Coughenour maintained, the Airman could have suffered severe career ending injuries.

Farrand is being recognized for rendering aid to a victim of a motorcycle accident in August. According to the nomination, Farrand came upon the scene and rendered aid applying her medical training to a severely injured accident victim.